GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1547
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Inter-linking of Rivers
Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the river Brahmaputra for its potentiality of power, waterways and irrigation and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether there is any proposal for inter-linking of rivers in north eastern region of the country; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOMPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

(Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

a) Yes Madam. In the Master Plan of Brahmaputra Basin - Part- 1 - Main Stem prepared by Brahmaputra Board, the 'Hydropower', 'Irrigation' and 'Navigation' has been widely discussed. Further, to increase navigability of the Brahmaputra and reduce flood and erosion, the concept of Dredging of Brahmaputra and Construction of "Brahmaputra Express Highway" on both banks have been initiated by the Govt. of Assam and the Preliminary Survey for the said purposes has been started from 24th January,2017.

Regarding potentiality of Power, as per reassessment studies of hydro-electric potential carried out by the Central Electricity Authority during 1978-87, the hydro power potential of Brahmaputra Basin in terms of Installed Capacity (IC) is estimated at 66065 MW out of which 65400 MW of the potential consists of hydroelectric schemes having I.C. above 25 MW.

Regarding potentiality of Waterways, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) declared River Brahmaputra in Assam as National Waterway -2 in 1988.IWAI undertakes various river conservancy works including hydrographic surveys in order to maintain the targeted depth, provide navigational aids and terminal facilities with cargo handling infrastructure to facilitate IWT. 20 rivers in the North Eastern region have been declared as national waterways. List is at Annex - A. Many of these rivers are proposed to be developed as feeder waterways to the NW -2, Brahmaputra.

Regarding potentiality of irrigation,no flow irrigation scheme on the main stem of the river in the valley itself would appear economically feasible. Water can, however, be lifted from the river to irrigate some riparian lands. As the river bank line is unstable due to erosion, there are only a few nodal sites available for fixed pumping stations. Elsewhere, water can be lifted by mobile barge - mounted pumps which can operate along the bank from position to position. These can irrigate flood free riparian areas on either side of the flood embankment and even the flood prone areas between the river bank and embankment in post - monsoon period. In the Master Plan of Brahmaputra the ultimate irrigation potential from surface water in Assam has been assessed at 19,70,000 ha. and groundwater is estimated at 7,00,000 ha.

(b) & c) In the north eastern region, Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link has been proposed under the Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Inter Basin Water Transfer envisaging diversion of about 43,000 MCM of the surplus waters of Manas and Sankosh rivers (Brahmaputra basin) with supplementation from the intermediate major streams namely Aie, Raidak, Torsa and Jaldhaka for the benefit of augmenting the flows of Ganga at Farakka and further transfer of 13,965 MCM to water short areas of Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar basins and providing irrigation facilities to the enroute command areas including the Teesta basin for meeting the requirements of North Bengal.

Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) of this link has been prepared in 1996. As per the PFR, this link comprises of two dams one each on rivers Manas and Sankosh inside Bhutan territory, and a gravity flow canal for diverting substantial quantum of water to river Ganga upstream of Farakka barrage. The link canal will provide navigation benefit between Manas and Mahananda barrage. This link canal envisages to provide assured irrigation facilities to culturable command area of about 6.54 lakh ha. in the States of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar utilizing 4,027 MCM of water. For preparation of feasibility report, Survey and Investigation work of Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link for forest free alignment has been completed.

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Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 1547 for answer on 09.03.2017 regarding 'Inter Linking of Rivers'
ANNEXURE- A

LIST OF NATIONAL WATERWAYS IN NORTH EAST

Sl. No. NWs
No. Name of National Waterways Length State Route / O.D
1. 2. Brahmaputra 891 Assam From Sadiya to Dhubri
2. 6. Aai 71 Assam From upstream of Bridge at Adalguri to confluence with Brahmaputra
3. 16. Barak 121 Assam Lakhipur Ferry Ghat to Tuker Gram
4. 18. Beki 73 Assam Elenagamari to Brahmaputra confluence
5. 30 Dehing 114 Assam Rail Bridge at Merbil Majuli to confluence of Dehing and Brahmaputra rivers near village Lachan
6. 31 Dhansiri/ Chathe 110 Assam From Bridge near Morongi T.E. village to Numaligarh
7. 32 Dikhu 63 Assam From Bridge at Nazira on State Highway -1 to confluence of Dikhu and Brahmaputra rivers
8. 33 Doyans 61 Assam From bridge near Sialmari to confluence of Doyans and Subansiri rivers
9. 38 Gangadhar 62 Assam & West Bengal From Pakriguri Bridge on National Highway-31C to Bangladesh Border at Binnachara Point lll
10. 39 Ganol River 49 Meghalaya From Bangladesh Border at Mankachar to bridge near Dolbari
11. 50 Jinjiram River 43 Meghalaya & Assam From confluence with Brahmaputra river at Tumni to Fulerchar Point lll at Brahmaputra river
12. 57 Kopili River 46 Assam From Bridge at BanthaiGaonTinali Bus stop to confluence with Brahmaputra river at Chandrapur
13. 61 Kynshi River 28 Meghalaya From Bangladesh border near Mawpyllum to bridge on Nonghyllam- Maweit road
14. 62 Lohit 100 Assam From ParasuramKund to SaikhowaGhat, Sadiya
15. 82 Puthimari 72 Assam From Bridge on National Highway -31 near village Ghopla to confluence with Brahmaputra river near Bamunbori
16. 93 Simsang River 62 Meghalaya From Bangladesh Border to bridge on National Highway -62 near Nongalbibra
17. 95 Subansiri 111 Assam From Gerukamukh to Brahmaputra confluence
18. 101 Tizu and Zungki Rivers 42 Nagaland From Longmatra to Avanghku at Myanmar border and in Zungki river from bridge to confluence of Zungki and Tizu rivers
19. 102 Tlawng (Dhaleswari) 86 Mizoram From Khamrang near National Highway − 54 to Bridge on National Highway-154 at Gharmura
20 106 Umngot (Dawki) River 20 Meghalaya From Bangladesh Border near Larbamon to Nongryngkoh

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